

beef-tea for nourishment, and of water to quench thirst, it was impossible, as he could never be made still enough to endure it; nor was it even possible to reassure him, or offer the slightest comfort or consolation, as he seemed unable to listen to anything, so entirely absorbed was he in his appalling suffering.

A careful *post mortem* examination was made by Mr. Wiseman 42 hours after death. The rigor mortis was very marked indeed, the body not arching at all when a block was placed beneath the abdomen, in order to place the body in a suitable position for the removal of the spinal cord. The blood was abnormally fluid. There was rather more obvious congestion of the corpse than usual, and of the central nervous organs; but without serous effusion. The lungs also were more decidedly congested, being dark purple in colour; but all other organs of the body were perfectly healthy.

CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA; RECOVERY.

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P., a boy, aged between five and six years, was bitten at Peshawur, East Indies, on September 20th, 1874, by an infuriated bull-bitch, which was soon afterwards destroyed; and being chained at the time, had no chance of doing further damage. The bites were very severe, and situated at the top of the right thigh externally and on the right leg; they were freely cauterised with fuming nitric acid within half an hour, which caused considerable loss of tissue; and were afterwards dressed with carbolic oil (1 in 40) to promote granulation. The healing process went on satisfactorily, but he occasionally complained of itching and irritability of cicatrices on the thigh, frequently rubbing off the scab over the seat of the wound, where cicatricial loss of tissue was still apparent. There was no other symptom of constitutional disease.

On October 19th, 1874, almost a month from the date of being bitten by the bitch, his father remarked that the boy was very heavy and feverish, and sent him home to bed. Feeling no better on the 20th, he was kept in bed, his skin being then very hot, and he was very thirsty, drinking lemonade freely. About 5 P.M. the same evening, his symptoms became more alarming, he being unconscious, taking no notice of his parents or others around him, and refusing food or drink, dozing off to sleep, but disturbed by the slightest noise. The parents, thinking this a case of ague, sent for Mr. Offerman, the assistant apothecary then in charge, who prescribed some calomel and James's powder, and was packing the child in a cold sheet, according to my usual treatment, when a sudden convulsion supervened, again recurring in one and a half hours. The father, dreading some connection between the dog-bite and present symptoms, requested me to see the boy; this I at once did, and found him very feverish and restless, with beads of saliva about his mouth. I suspected the worst, but did not give any pronounced opinion to the parents, as it might have been ague with convulsions, which in earlier childhood present themselves in so many ways. I ordered the tepid sheet, and the child to be well covered with blankets, and gave a diaphoretic mixture; the case to be carefully watched, and any change of symptoms to be at once reported to me. Diaphoresis and sleep followed, which latter lasted till 1 A.M. on the morning of October 21st, when he suddenly awoke in a screaming fit, as his mother expressed, "screaming wildly, not as if he were hurt". The father came for me at once; and on my arrival at his house, the poor lad had the most intense fits, screaming violently; he had clonic interrupted muscular contractions, twisting sometimes to the side, foaming at the mouth, spitting saliva from between the teeth, dreading all liquids, the slightest disturbance reproducing these frightful convulsions. From the previous history, the anxiety manifested by the intelligent parents, and the characteristic symptoms, my diagnosis of hydrophobia was justified, I think; in which opinion Assistant-Apothecary Offerman unhesitatingly coincided. No other medical officer was with my regiment at the time; and the parents seemingly had implicit faith in me, for they said they did not wish another medical man. Thinking nothing could be done, I did not insist.

I warned the parents for the worst; but, thinking he had some pain about the abdomen, and screaming as if suffering from worms, I ordered an enema of half an ounce of castor-oil and sixty minims of turpentine with soapsuds, but nothing of note came away. Perfect quietude was enjoined; and while pondering over the lad's wretched state, the happy and soothing effects of cannabis Indica I had previously experienced, and which are hereafter more fully detailed, flashed across my mind, and as a palliative I determined to try it. Five minims of the tincture were with great difficulty given by the mouth, and sleep for a short time followed; but he again awoke in a wild

screaming fit, and spitting saliva from between his teeth. As there were several other children in the house, and a spare ward was made ready in hospital, I removed him thither, explaining to his parents that he would not be seen by other members of his family in this hopeless state, and that I did not expect he would live long. The room was darkened and isolated, most complete quietude rigidly enforced, and five minims of tincture of cannabis Indica were repeated by mouth in short convulsive gulps; most of it, however, was swallowed, I think. A deep sleep, lasting for ten hours, soon followed, and he awoke conscious of those around him, recognising his mother for the first time for twenty-seven hours. His pupils were contracted to a point; and, he seeming very heavy, went quickly to sleep again for another twelve hours, with slight interruptions till the morning of October 22nd, when, to my utter astonishment, he took some milk and beef-tea without difficulty, still seeming heavy and dozing off to sleep at intervals during the day. I determined to continue for one night more my physiological dose of cannabis Indica; and after careful feeding with beef-tea, I administered five minims by the mouth without difficulty about 5 P.M., which kept him asleep for eighteen hours, during which time he was carefully watched, his pulse and respirations more particularly, both of which continued good throughout; and I now regret I did not tabulate them, but I had my hands full at the time.

When he awoke on the forenoon of October 23rd, his pupils were very much contracted; he seemed drowsy, weak, and blanched, with languid circulation, but free from fits, and all the other frightful symptoms we had witnessed. I afterwards fed him well for a week on non-stimulating diet, and prescribed tonic doses of quinine and nitro-hydrochloric acid, which in that aguish district did good in any convalescence; and he was discharged, but to attend and see me occasionally.

On October 30th, he was well and hearty, and seemingly none the worse for his recent attack and long sleep. I last saw him in 1878, when I left my regiment; he was then in good health, the cicatrices alone remaining.

REMARKS.—Judging from the result, some may be sceptical about my diagnosis. I can only remark I had no doubt of it when I removed the child to hospital, as I thought, to die; it seems too good also to be true; but why change my diagnosis because he recovered? I hoped ere now to have had further opportunity of trying my vaunted remedy, but have not; and would have wished to give a more definite *rationale* of treatment. I, however, state facts, and leave to more fertile brains and abler pens to supply the theory; but I hope some of the readers of the JOURNAL may give it a trial, and that I may yet hear of cures of hydrophobia by physiological and repeated doses of cannabis Indica.

Reverting to my original idea of giving cannabis Indica, I recalled to memory the vivid description given us by our learned and highly respected Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Aberdeen where I studied—Alexander Harvey—more especially about the smoker dreaming he was climbing hills of Cavendish tobacco, which, to an indulger in that so-called pernicious plant, was too great a temptation for frail mortal, and I determined to taste the pleasures of Indian hemp; and I now relate my experience. On dismissal of the class, I took a fair dose, was highly exhilarated thereby, and, to use a vulgarism, had very jolly sensations all over, content with my temporary paradise; then, feeling heavy and drowsy, I sat down on the window-sill of a fashionable shop, and was asleep in a short time, as I was afterwards told by two fellow-students, in a stage of intoxication, which the passers-by, in their usually charitable spirit to medical students, no doubt attributed to alcohol. My two friends, who had been watching me throughout, had considerable sport at my expense, but did not leave me till I awoke from a sound and refreshing sleep. My object in this case being to make this wretched lad happy, though only as a palliative, I tried my old friend cannabis Indica, and with the best results. The drug was given by the mouth with difficulty, and I wondered he swallowed as much as he did; had I failed to give the medicine in this way, the hypodermic method could be used. The natives of India smoke it as "bang"; they say it makes them happy, relieves indigestion, and gives a glowing sensation all over.

In conclusion, I gave the first dose as a palliative, aiming at giving the lad rest and ease. Finding it partially successful, I was encouraged to give a second dose, which exceeded my most sanguine expectations; and profiting by a case of locked jaw about which I then read, which was relieved by Calabar bean, so long as the remedy was given, while on its withdrawal the disease recurred, I determined to continue for one night more, and carefully watch the case.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATES.—Dr. Wilberforce Arnold, and Dr. Dempsey, have been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the borough of Belfast.